

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior listings and versions of claims in the application:

- 1 –14. (cancelled).
15. (previously presented) A plurality of carriers on which a plurality of different compounds can be synthesized, comprising a population of detectably distinct carriers wherein each carrier is covalently coupled to a synthon suitable for use in combinatorial synthesis, each carrier having a code, which distinctively identifies a respective carrier before, during and after a combinatorial synthesis from other carriers, and which is characterized by at least two detectable features-integrally associated with the carrier, wherein individual carriers comprise all the features-that define a corresponding code before commencing synthesis of a respective compound thereon, wherein one of said features is not shape, or surface deformation(s) of the carrier.
16. (cancelled)
17. (currently amended) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein at least one of said features-of a respective carrier is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a light emanating feature, ~~a light absorbing feature, a radioactive feature, a magnetic feature, and a metallic feature.~~
18. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 17, wherein said light emanating feature is selected from the group consisting of light scattering, luminescence, phosphorescence, atomic fluorescence emission, and molecular fluorescence emission.
19. (currently amended) The plurality of carriers of claim 17, wherein the feature is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a light emanating feature ~~and a light absorbing feature, wherein said feature is detectable by illuminating the carrier~~

with incident light of one or more selected wavelengths or of one or more selected vectors.

20. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein a respective carrier has at least three detectable features integrally associated therewith.
21. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 17, wherein the wherein the feature of a respective carrier is fluorescence and said carrier comprises a fluorescent dye.
22. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein each carrier is a colloidal particle.
23. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein at least one of said features is incorporated into one or more microparticles.
24. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein the carriers have different forms selected from the group consisting of pellet, disc, capillary, hollow fiber, needle, pin and chip.
25. (original) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein the carriers have different sizes.
26. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 23, wherein said one or more microparticles comprises a microparticle selected from the group consisting of a colloidal microparticle and a ceramic microparticle.
27. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 26, wherein the ceramic microparticle is a silica microparticle.

28. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 26, wherein the said one or more microparticles comprises a microparticle of from about 0.01 μm to about 50 μm in diameter.

29. (original) The plurality of carriers of claim 15, wherein a respective carrier comprises functionalities selected from the group consisting of -NH₂, -COOH, -SOH, -SSH and sulfate.

30-62. (cancelled)

63. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers according to claim 29, wherein one or more of said functionalities are attached to a linker.

64. (cancelled).

65. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 23, wherein said one or more microparticles comprises a microparticle having a shape selected from the group consisting of a sphere, a cube, a rectangular prism, a pyramid, a cone, an ovoid, a sheet, and a cylinder.

66. (previously presented) The plurality of carriers of claim 23, wherein said one or more microparticles comprises a microparticle attached to a carrier through colloidal interaction.